

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 IO-13 EUR-12 DHA-02 ORM-02 SAM-01

SAB-01 SCCT-01 SY-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 091336Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5922

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG LE XF

SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS ON LEBANON

1. LITTLE CHANGE IN TONE IN CAIRO PRESS AUGUST 8 AND 9 AS PAPERS CONTINUE PESSIMISTIC ON SITUATION IN LEBANON, HIGHLIGHT RIGHTIST "CRIMES" AND FOCUS ON FAILURE OF SYRIAN/PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT.

2. RIGHTISTS. FEATURED ITEM AUGUST 9 WAS DESCRIPTION OF "ATROCITIES" COMMITTED BY RIGHTISTS AGAINST PALESTINIANS IN TEL ZA'TAR. RIGHTIST INSPIRED FIGHTING SAID TO BE RAGING AND SITUATION DETERIORATING FURTHER. ENGLISH LANGUAGE GAZETTE AND RADIO CARRY GRUESOME TALE OF ALLEGED CHRISTIAN LOOTING OF NABAA AND DESCRIBES CONVOY OF TRUCKS

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WITH LOOT EN ROUTE TO JUNIYA. THIS POTENTIALLY INFLAMMATORY

ITEM NOT CARRIED IN ARABIC PRESS.

3. SYRO-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT. LEAD ITEM AUGUST 8
WAS URGENT PLO APPEAL FOR SAUDI AND KUWAITI MEDIATION
FOR CEASEFIRE. NEWS AGENCIES FROM KUWAIT AUGUST 9
REPORT ARAFAT PESSIMISTIC AND SAYING THAT NEXT THREE DAYS
WILL BE DECISIVE FOR LEBANESE CRISIS. AGENCIES ALSO
REPORT HIS EXPRESSED WONDER THAT SYRIAN/PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT
HAS NOT YET GONE INTO FORCE. "POLITICAL CIRCLES", ACCORDING
THESE REPORTS, CLAIM SYRIANS PLAN WIDE SCALE OPERATIONS
IN NEXT FEW DAYS TO ELIMINATE PALESTINIANS, LEFTISTS AND
CHAMOUNISTS (SIC). THESE SOURCES POINT TO COMPOSITION OF NEW
CABINET AND SYRIAN DEMAND FOR POSTPONEMENT OF LEBANESE-
PALESTINIAN-SYRIAN COMMITTEE MEETING AS PROOF THAT SYRIA
INTENT ON MILITARY SOLUTION.

4. JORDAN. PAPERS ALSO SUGGEST NEGATIVE JORDANIAN ATTITUDE
IN REPORT THAT QADDUMI ANNOUNCED JORDANIANS HAVE FROZEN
PLO FUNDS IN ARAB BANK IN AMMAN. FUNDS WERE EARMARKED
FOR EXPENSES OF PLA IN JORDAN AND PALESTINIAN RELIEF ACTIVITIES.

5. COMMENTARY. AKHBAR EDITORIAL DESCRIBES WEST BANK
DEMONSTRATIONS AS EVIDENCE OF PALESTINIAN WILL TO RESIST.
SAID ISRAEL AND JORDAN FAILED TO LIQUIDATE PALESTINIANS UNDER
THEIR CONTROL AND THAT SYRIAN BAATH DOOMED TO FAIL IN ITS
PRESENT ATTEMPT TO CRUSH PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE. GUMHURRIYA
EDITORIALIZED THAT SYRIANS FURTHERING ZIONIST GOALS AND THAT
TEL ZATAR DESTRUCTION OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE TO COURSE OF
EVENTS IN LEBANON SINCE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE DETERMINED
TO CARRY ON.

6. COMMENT: EGYPTIAN POLICY STILL REACTIVE; SATISFACTION
OVER FAILURE OF SYRIAN/PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT TO GET OFF
GROUND SHINES THROUGH.
EILTS

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